

**REPORT TO REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026**

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**SUBJECT**     **Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality – 2025 Annual Report**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

Staff are submitting the Greater Victoria Water Quality 2025 Annual Report (the Report) (Appendix A) to the Regional Water Supply Commission (RWSC) for review and acceptance prior to submitting it to the Province in fulfillment of regulatory reporting obligations under the Province's *Drinking Water Protection Act* and the *Drinking Water Protection Regulation*.

**BACKGROUND**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is responsible for the operation of the Regional Water Supply Service and ensuring that the drinking water supply meets applicable provincial public health and drinking water quality requirements. In receiving the Report, the RWSC is exercising oversight assurance by confirming that appropriate monitoring, treatment, and reporting programs are in place and functioning effectively, that drinking water quality outcomes for the reporting year meet applicable requirements under the Province's *Drinking Water Protection Act* and *Drinking Water Protection Regulation*, and that water quality performance aligns with the Regional Drinking Water Strategic Plan. Acceptance of the Report signifies that the RWSC is satisfied with overall system performance and regulatory compliance and provides authorization for staff to submit the report to the Medical Health Officer and Island Health Authority.

Submission of the Report meets the CRD Board's Corporate Plan priorities related to ensuring regulatory compliance and sound governance, protection of public health and the environment, and effective delivery and oversight of essential regional services. The Report also directly supports the objectives of the Regional Drinking Water Strategic Plan, specifically those related to protecting source water quality, maintaining robust monitoring and treatment programs, and ensuring long-term reliability, resilience, and public confidence in the regional drinking water system.

Annual reporting confirms that operational performance continues to align with these strategic objectives, supports the continuation of the established monitoring and management program, and to identify any emerging trends or areas of concern that need to be brought back to the RWSC for consideration.

The 2025 Report summarizes the results of water quality monitoring across the regional water supply system for the 2025 calendar year, including source water, treatment, and distribution system monitoring. The Report demonstrates that drinking water supplied by the CRD continued to meet, and in many cases exceeded, provincial drinking water quality standards and guidelines throughout the reporting period.

The CRD continues to carry out compliance monitoring of municipal distribution water systems to ensure consistent oversight and reporting requirements are met. Responsibility for addressing

any issues that arise within municipal infrastructure remains with the respective local governments.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

### *Alternative 1*

The Regional Water Supply Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That the Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality 2025 Annual Report be approved; and
2. That the Greater Victoria Water Quality 2025 Annual Report be forwarded to Island Health Authority.

### *Alternative 2*

That the Regional Water Supply Commission direct staff to provide further information.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Regulatory Implications*

Under the Province's *Drinking Water Protection Act* and *Drinking Water Protection Regulation*, drinking water suppliers are required to conduct routine water quality monitoring, maintain records, and report on drinking water quality performance. Annual water quality reporting forms part of the oversight framework used by the Medical Health Officer and Island Health Authority to confirm ongoing compliance with regulatory standards.

Regulatory sampling and testing requirements were met in all months. Compliance with regulatory water quality standards were achieved in most months across all system components. Some distribution systems recorded isolated total coliform exceedances, and Saanich, Victoria and Esquimalt each recorded a single E. coli positive sample in October. Follow up resampling and investigations confirmed that these were not true drinking water contamination events and did not pose a public health risk.

Peak outdoor water use in early summer contributed to one turbidity exceedance at the Goldstream Water Treatment Plant. Staff continue to mitigate these events through annual spring main flushing and by working with communities and industry to reduce peak outdoor watering demands. As well, water temperature exceeded aesthetic values through the summer months.

### *Environmental & Climate Implications*

The Report indicates that the regional drinking water system continues to perform in a manner that protects source, transmission and distribution water quality. The system is routinely monitored for physical, chemical, and biological parameters, and overall trends remain stable. Of note, summer water temperatures were the second highest on record since the 2004 dam expansion, surpassed only by 2024, and exceeded the Health Canada aesthetic threshold for 12 weeks. This elevated temperature was likely the primary driver of increased algal activity in Sooke Lake Reservoir during the summer months.

Monitoring results indicate that the CRD continues to meet guidelines for maintaining an unfiltered source water supply. Distribution system monitoring further shows an effective balance between

controlling bacterial growth and maintaining good water quality with low concentrations of disinfection byproducts. Ongoing, comprehensive monitoring also supports early detection of water quality changes that may be influenced by climate-related stressors, including warmer temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, wildfire impacts, and extreme weather events.

### *Financial Implications*

There are no direct financial implications associated with the RWSC 's acceptance of the 2025 Report. All monitoring, analysis, and reporting activities summarized in the report are part of existing, approved operating programs and budgets for the Regional Water Supply Service.

Over the longer term, annual water quality reporting supports prudent financial management by identifying trends that may inform future capital planning, operational adjustments, or investment in infrastructure resilience.

### *Social Implications*

Drinking water quality is fundamental to public health, community well-being, and public confidence in the regional water supply. The Report demonstrates that residents continued to receive safe, high-quality drinking water throughout the year.

Public reporting of water quality outcomes supports transparency and reinforces trust in the Regional Water Supply Service and in the RWSC's oversight role. Continued acceptance and submission of the Report help demonstrate accountability to both regulators and the communities served by the CRD. The annual report is also supplemented by a monthly dashboard report with key parameters that is presented to the Commissions and posted on our CRD public website.

All data and reports are available online through the CRD public website. Staff respond directly to customer questions and concerns, and work closely with CRD operational staff, municipal staff and Island Health officials to support good communication and coordinated oversight of the overall system.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality 2025 Annual Report indicates that the regional drinking water system continues to meet all applicable provincial drinking water quality and public health requirements throughout the reporting period. Completion and submission of this report fulfill the CRD's regulatory obligations under the Province's *Drinking Water Protection Act* and supports the Medical Health Officer's oversight role. Ongoing monitoring results demonstrate effective system performance and reinforce public confidence in the safety, reliability, and stewardship of this essential public service.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Regional Water Supply Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That the Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality 2025 Annual Report be approved; and
2. That the Greater Victoria Water Quality 2025 Annual Report be forwarded to Island Health Authority.

Submitted by:	Glenn Harris, PhD., R.P.Bio., Senior Manager, Environmental Protection
Concurrence:	Alicia Fraser, P. Eng., General Manager, Integrated Water Services
Concurrence:	Luisa Jones, MBA, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services
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**ATTACHMENT**

Appendix A: Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality – 2025 Annual Report